

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/802,027

Examiner

Joseph W. Drodge

Applicant(s)

SHOJI ET AL.

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment of 09/28/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>03102010</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Baker on March 10, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A filter for trapping foreign matter comprising:

an inflow chamber into which a fluid flows;

an outflow chamber from which flows the fluid that has flown into said inflow chamber;

and

a filter element, occupying an annular space surrounding a hollow portion, and having an outer curved surface, end surfaces and an inner curved surface defining the hollow portion, said filter element partitioning said two chambers, wherein

said inflow chamber has a structure arranged substantially the entire length of the inflow chamber and comprising a flow guide being substantially conical with its diameter increasing in the direction of the fluid flow, and extending from the lower end of the inflow chamber to a position near the top of the inflow chamber, such that substantially all the fluid that flows into said inflow chamber is spouted up from a bottom portion of said inflow chamber in a rising flow that is forcibly directed radially by said structure toward said inner curved surface of said filter

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element along substantially the entire length of said filter element to fall upon and enter the filter element at said inner curved surface.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A filter for trapping foreign matter comprising:

an inflow chamber into which a fluid flows;

an outflow chamber from which flows the fluid that has flown into said inflow chamber;

a filter element, occupying an annular space surrounding a hollow portion, and having an outer curved surface, end surfaces and an inner curved surface defining the hollow portion, said filter element partitioning said two chambers, and

a guide, held inside said inflow chamber and substantially the entire length of the inflow chamber, said flow guide being substantially conical with it's diameter increasing in the direction of fluid flow and extending from the lower end of the inflow chamber to a position near the top of the inflow chamber, for forcibly guiding the flow of substantially all the fluid that has flown into said inflow chamber radially toward said inner curved surface of said filter element along substantially the entire length of said filter element to fall upon and enter the filter element at said inner curved surface, wherein flow of the fluid is directed along an outer surface of said guide.

Claims 10,11,13 and 14 have been canceled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1 and 8 are now deemed to distinguish over all of the prior art of record, especially that previously applied

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against the claims in view of recitation of the flow guide being conical with it's diameter increasing in the flow direction, and extending as recited along the filter element. The prior art instead recited flow guides and flow structures that are substantially constant along the length of the filter element or have a decreasing diameter in flow direction from bottom to top. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 8 are found in instant Figures 1 and 2 and the paragraph bridging pages 18-19 of the Instant Specification.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

JWD
3/10/2010
/Joseph W. Drodge/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797